AGITATE ! EDUCATE ! ORGANIZE !

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

HELP THE MINERS.

Local unions are urged to give prompt financial aid to the striking coal miners of Colorado.

Entered as second-class matter, September 11, 1911, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

VOL. 4. NO. 26 WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1914. WHOLE NO. 182

GERMAN UNIONS HELPFUL.

Washington, Sept. 26.—It is gathered from scattering reports coming from war-bound countries that the German trade unions are assisting in providing for the families of those who have been drafted for service in the present war. It is stated that the German trade unions are also paying relief to the unemployed and in some cases war relief. For instance, the Vorwaerts gives the following rates of relief being extended: Wood Workers, 6 shillings per week for married men and 4 shillings for unmarried or unemployed. For the support of families of those drafted for war, 3 shillings per week. Printers are paying unemployment benefits. The Textile Workers have reduced their unemployment benefits to two-thirds the usual amount, and a quarter of this is granted as war relief. The Brewers, Millers, Stokers, Enginemen, and Transport Workers are paying only unemployment benefits, but war relief is urgently needed, and the Miners have voted $250,000 for war and relief purposes. Tobacco Workers are receiving 6 shillings per week for unemployment and 4 shillings for support of families of those drafted for war. Saddlers are paying a levy varying from ½ to 10 per cent increase on their usual subscriptions, and unemployment benefits are being paid out at the rate of 7 shillings per week for men and 5 shillings per week for women.

CONVICTS ON ROADS.

Washington, Sept. 26.—According to reports coming from Wisconsin, convicts are being successfully employed on road work. It is stated that a representative of the National Committee on Prisons and Prison Labor made a careful study of the present system of the state two years ago at the request of the Governor of the State Board of Public Affairs. In his report the representative of the National Committee on Prisons recommended that all prisoners who could be placed on their honor should be employed out doors in quarrying stone, clearing stump lands and building roads. The legislature of 1913, in carrying out the recommendations, authorized convicts to be employed on road work, and in 1914 two camps were established. Seventy-seven men are being built and the convicts are provided with neat khaki uniforms and live and work like a hired crew, the only guards being two unarmed experts in road building. It is considered that as far the developments show the complete success in the plan and there are indications that the system will be extended as conditions permit.

ASKS LOWER SCALE.

Denver, Col., Sept. 26.—The News, Times, and Post, through the general manager of the three papers, has notified the Typographical Union that it proposes asking or a reduction in the scale. It is not considered that there is any accuracy on the part of the managers of these newspapers that they will restore the scale, owing to the fact that living conditions rather favor an increase than a reduction. The newspaper field in this city has been undergoing a change during the last year, one morning paper having been purchased by the News-Times combination, the Republican and its publication ceased. The Scrips-McRay Evening Paper has not joined the other papers in a request for reduction. The situation is not considered serious.

ASSIGNMENT OF WAGES.

Washington, D. C., Sept. 26.—A statute enacted by the legislature of Indiana in 1909 provides among other things that "no assignment of his wages or salary by the head man who shall be the head of the family residing in this state shall be valid or enforceable without the consent of his wife, evidenced by her signature to said assignment, executed and acknowledged before a notary public, or other officer empowered to take acknowledgments of conveyances." This provision has been held constitutional by the Supreme Court of Indiana.

LAUNDRY WORKERS' STRIKE.

Brockton, Mass., Sept. 26.—The employes of one of the large laundries here have issued work bereaft of the dismissal of one of the employes, a member of the union, who was a delegate to the meeting of the International Union held recently in Troy. It seems that the company took advantage of the situation, evidently for the purpose of creating discord and also for the purpose of abrogating the agreements. Indications are that the union will be successful in its contentions.

MAYOR RECOMMENDS INCREASE.

Cambridge, Mass., Sept. 26.—Mayor Good, of this city, sent a cheering message to the employes of the Public Service on Labor Day, when he announced his intention of recommending that the salaries of the handworkers in all city departments after October 1 be raised to $2.50 per day. It is expected that the City Council will concur in the recommendations of the Mayor and grant the increase.

TEAMSTERS' STRIKE THREATENS

Philadelphia, Pa., Sept. 26.—About 25,000 members of the Teamsters' Union are endeavoring to secure a readjustment of their conditions, together with an increase in wages. The present agreement now in effect expires on November 1, and efforts will be continued to secure a satisfactory settlement.

NEW CARPENTERS' HALL.

East St. Louis, Sept. 26.—Arrangements have been practically completed by the local union of Carpenters in this city to commence the construction of a building to cost $20,000. The structure is to be used partially as a labor temple, while the lower floor is to be rented for business purposes.

MASSACHUSETTS FEDERATION.

Boston, Sept. 26.—The Massachusetts State Federation of Labor is in session in this city, about 400 delegates being in attendance.

ACCEPT PRESIDENT'S PLAN.

Washington, Sept. 26.—The miners in Colorado involved in the strike against the coal operators in that state accepted the proposal of the President of the United States to end that controversy, but the operators thus far have declined to give their acquiescence. On the contrary, the operators wired to the President seeking an interview on Wednesday, September 23, which has been granted. The proposal of the President, which was accepted by the miners, provides for a three years' truce—the miners to waive union recognition, but being specifically permitted to maintain their organization. It is further provided that the workmen are to elect or appoint a grievance committee with the right of appeal to a commission appointed by the President of the United States in the event that the grievance committee is unable to settle any dispute arising during the three-year period. As stated the coal miners accepted the proposition and sent the following telegram to President Wilson:

"The Colorado Mine Workers in convention assembled have carefully considered your proposal for a settlement of the coal strike and after calm deliberation have thought have this day decided to accept the proposition you submit. The delegates of this convention convey to you their abiding faith in your integrity and your earnest and patriotic desire to be helpful in the present crisis. Upon notice of the acceptance of your proposition by the coal operators we will terminate immediately the strike and return to work." The fact that the operators sought an interview with the President is significant, for it is the first indication of any desire to recede from their uncompromising and brutal attitude.

J. F. Welborn representing the operators, had an interview and refused to accept the President's plan to end the strike. It is also intimated that the President stood firm in his attitude as conveyed by his letter suggesting the plan of settlement. The arrogance of the operators in these negotiations still further emphasizes the brutality of the Rockefeller combination.

CHILD LABOR ACT ADOPTED.

Little Rock, Ark., Sept. 26.—As a result of the recent election it is now definitely known that the two initiative acts and three constitutional amendments voted on at the November election have been adopted. Among these acts that governing the employment of child labor has attracted universal interest. Under the new law that a child to work in any occupation must have attended school four years and be more than fourteen years of age. The children under sixteen cannot be employed in any hazardous occupation. The State Board of Education is charged under the act to rule on the hazards of various lines of work. Children under sixteen are limited to eight hours work per day, while for those between sixteen and eighteen, nine hours work a day is the limit. Children under 16 years are barred from professional theatrical performances.

STOCKTON'S UNION BUSTERS.

Stockton, Cal., Sept. 26.—A coterie of business men in this city, who organized for the purpose of busting the unions and maintaining "industrial equilibrium," have been exceedingly successful during the last year as shown by a comparison of building permits issued during August, 1913, and August, 1914. In 1913 the building permits to the amount of $151,630 were issued, while after the union busters had established "industrial equilibrium" the building permits for August 1914, amounted to $7,360. This record is exceedingly illuminating and should be given wide publicity in all districts where organized business men desire to establish "industrial equilibrium."

ROAD ASKS MEDIATION.

St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 26.—The good offices of the Federal Board of Mediation to avoid a strike on the St. Louis and Southwestern Railway have been requested by the company and the invitation to the Mediation Board to intervene has been accepted. The action of the company was taken pursuant to the action of a committee representing the Order of Railway Conductors and Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, which advised the management of the railroad that a strike would be called unless the company reinstated a former conductor.

MICHIGAN FEDERATION.

Lansing, Mich., Sept. 26.—The Michigan State Federation of Labor in its recent session here, had a discussion on the question of Japanese immigration. Other questions considered were the school book law, the compensation law, the amendment to the Mothers' Compensation Law, initiative and referendum, in reference to the eight-hour law; switchmen's full crew bill, and measures looking to the abolition of the present system in vogue in tailor shops, the elimination of female workers in foundries and the raising of the age limit of working children.

PAPER MAKERS ORGANIZE.

Hamilton, Ohio, Sept. 26.—One of the largest organizations of paper makers in the Miami Valley has just been organized. A strong organization of paper makers formerly occupied this field, but for some unaccountable reason it dwindled and went to pieces. The reorganization of the workers in the paper mills here will not only be of material benefit to the paper makers themselves, but will give an impetus to the general labor movement in this section.

SCRANTON SILK STRIKE.

Scranton, Pa., Sept. 26.—A settlement of the controversy with the Derry Silk Company and its 200 textile workers has not yet been effected. The strike affects ceased work on account of a wage difference, and the Company has refused to meet a representative of the union thus far. It is stated that this same Company may be affected in its other plants providing a settlement is not reached within a short time.

NEW LABEL FACTORY.

Rochester, N. Y., Sept. 26.—Rochester has one more union clothing house that will attach the United Garment Workers' label to goods manufactured. General Executive Board member Altman has secured an agreement with a firm which has its main factory in this city with branches in Cleveland, Ohio; Atlanta, Detroit, Mich.; Scranton, Pa., and Schenectady, N. Y.

CIGARMAKERS AND STOGIEMAKERS REACH AN AGREEMENT

Washington, Sept. 26.—The following communication was just received from President Gompers and is self-explanatory:

Cleveland, O., Sept. 19.—The Seattle Convention of the American Federation of Labor instructed the Executive Council to continue efforts to bring about the amalgamation of the National Stogie Makers' League and the Cigar Makers' International Union. In compliance therewith, a conference was called by Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, of the representatives of the two organizations primarily in interest, to be held at Cleveland, O., September 18, 1914. The participants in the conference were G. W. Perkins, Thomas F. Tracy, and Wm. Strauss, representing the Cigar Makers' International Union of America; W. H. Riley, Charles Huggins, and F. W. Sonderman, representing the National Stogie Makers' League, and Samuel Gompers, representing the American Federation of Labor.

After a thorough discussion of terms and conditions of the amalgamation by which the National Stogie Makers' League would become amalgamated with the Cigar Makers' International Union, the following declaration and terms and conditions of amalgamation were agreed to:

The necessity is recognized for the thorough organization of all persons employed in the cigar and stogie industry, so that the best interests of all the workers therein may be the better protected and promoted.

That all stogie makers who are in good standing in the Stogie Makers' League shall be admitted into the Cigar Makers' International Union, and be placed in full fellowship therein without the payment of an initiation fee, provided the local Union of which they are members shall place its funds in the general funds of the International Union.

(For the information of all parties in interest and who may be unacquainted with the fact, it is here stated as a fact that the general funds of the International Union are held by the local Unions in trust for the general purposes and benefits of the members of the International Union, and are not forwarded to the International headquarters.)

If the funds of the Stogie Makers' League amount to five dollars ($5.00) per capita, the members shall be immediately entitled to strike benefit and to $50.00 death benefit. If the funds of the Stogie Makers' League shall amount to $10.00 per capita, they shall be immediately entitled, in addition to the foregoing, to a sick benefit, as provided in the laws of the International Union. It is agreed that the members shall be entitled to all of the benefits as soon as they have been members of the International Union the length of time required in the laws thereof. That an organizer shall be appointed for a term of at least two years, in the effort to organize stogie makers. Not less than half of the organizer's time shall be devoted to this herein declared purpose. The organizer shall be familiar with the stogie making branch of the industry, and, all other things being equal, the preference shall be for a stogie maker to act as such organizer.

That stogies, cheroots, tobies, or cigars, or anything coming within the jurisdiction of the Cigar Makers' International Union shall be defined as follows:

First—All cigars shall be known as such when made of long fillers, or scraps, or both, with or without a binder and a paste head, whether pasted down around and smooth, twisted on or cut off.

Second—A stogie shall be defined and known as follows: When made with cut or twist head, in which no paste is used in shaping or fastening the head, and which is generally known as a stogie.

That the President of the C. M. I. U. of A. shall have made and printed a label for stogies as follows:

"Issued by Cigar Makers' International Union of America, ——, President. The Stogies contained in this package are the product of Union stogie makers, members of the C. M. I. U. of A."

In no case shall the Stogie Unibn Labels be issued or allowed to be used on stogies made for less than $3.50 per thousand.

That the whole question and plan of amalgamation be published in four consecutive issues of the Cigar Makers' official journal and one copy of each issue be furnished to each member of the Stogie Makers' League; these issues of the journal to be also open for letters and articles, on the subject of amalgamation, to the members of the Stogie Makers' League.

In all respects, other than in this agreement provided, the laws of the International Union shall govern all local unions, and the membership of the branch of the industry of which they are made up or in which they are employed.

If the plan of amalgamation is ratified by popular vote of each organization, the amalgamation shall take effect April 15, 1915, and the National Stogie Makers' League shall in that event and on that date, namely, April 15, 1915, automatically dissolve and cease to exist as such, and all properties and funds of the National Stogie Makers' League, not otherwise determined by the laws of the C. M. I. U. of A. and this agreement, shall be turned over to the proper officers of the Cigar Makers' International Union of America, Chicago, Ill.

The referendum vote to be taken by each organization during the month of March, 1915.

(Signed) G. W. PERKINS.
(Signed) THOMAS F. TRACY.
(Signed) WILLIAM STRAUSS.
For the Cigar Makers' International Union of America.
(Signed) W. H. RILEY.
(Signed) F. W. SONDERMAN.
(Signed) CHAS. HUGGINS.
For the National Stogie Makers' League.
(Signed) SAMUEL GOMPERS.
President American Federation of Labor.
WITNESSES:
(Signed) THOMAS S. FARREL.
Cleveland Federation of Labor.
(Signed) WALTER B. HINTON.
Sheet Metal Workers' Union.
131, Wheeling, W. Va.
(Signed) LEE J. LAFLAM.
Typographical Union, No. 79, Wheeling, W. Va.

BREWERY WORKERS MEET.

Baltimore, Md., Sept. 26.—The United Brewery Workers are holding their convention in this city. It is stated to be the largest ever held by the organization. On September 19, the delegates in body took a trip to Washington, D. C., where a smoker was tendered the delegates by the Washington Central Labor Union. The convention is considered one of the sessions of the convention and delivered an address. The conventions was so enthusiastic over the utterances of President Gompers that it ordered the address printed in pamphlet form for distribution among its local unions. The reports of the officers show that material progress has been made since the last convention.

EMBARGO ON IMPURE WATER.

Washington, Sept. 26.—The Interstate Commerce Commission has taken up the matter of impure water on railway trains and in ships plying in the coastwise commerce. Common carriers are to be prohibited from providing their crews or employes with polluted water for drinking purposes and are not to be permitted to maintain upon vessels or vehicles or in any of their stations, or other ordinary stopping places over which they have control, any tank, cistern, receptacle, hydrant or article with water which may contain impurities.

FIRST COAL DISCOVERY.

Washington, D. C., Sept. 26.—According to the Coal and Coke Operator and Miner, the first discovery of coal in the United States was made by Father Hennepin, a Recollet Missionary, who in 1679 reported the occurrence of "cole" on the banks of the Illinois River near the present city of Ottawa. The first record of coal mining in Illinois refers to the shipment of a flat boat load of coal made in 1810 at a point on the big muddy river in Jackson County, Illinois.

OTIS BEFORE COMMISSION.

Los Angeles, Cal., Sept. 26.—Harrison Gray Otis, he of union-smashing fame, had his fling at union labor during a recent session of the Industrial Relations Commission here. His testimony, however, produced nothing new, the "General" simply repeating his former attitude and making the usual noise in expressing his perverted ideas.

RETURNING TO WORK.

Chicago, Ill., Sept. 26.—At the inception of the European War many thousands of men were laid off in the various industries. With a general European War under way a corresponding exceeding caution and apprehension seemed to hold of the management of the large works of the country. However, with the American Government assuming a strictly neutral attitude, and with the prospects of a large increased export trade as the result of the general cessation of industry in the war bound countries, men are being returned to work and industry generally appears to have taken on renewed activity during the last ten days or two weeks. If reports coming from various sections of the country can be credited employment will be normal within a comparatively short time.

MISSOURI VALLEY PRINTERS.

Omaha, Nebr., Sept. 26.—The typographical unions of the Missouri Valley sent delegates to this city recently for the purpose of forming a Missouri Valley Typographical conference. Representatives were present from Kansas City and St. Joseph, Mo., Lincoln, Nebr., Council Bluffs, and Sioux City, Ia., and Omaha, Nebr. Other organizations in the valley transmitted letters pledging support to the movement. The organization has West Missouri, the first discovery of coal in the United States was made by Father Hennepin, a Recollet Missionary, who in 1679 reported the occurrence of "cole" on the banks of the Illinois River near the present city of Ottawa. The first record of coal mining in Illinois refers to the shipment of a flat boat load of coal made in 1810 at a point on the big muddy river in Jackson County, Illinois.

LAUNDRY WORKERS GROW.

Washington, Sept. 26.—The Secretary of the International Laundry Workers reports that twenty-six new charters have been issued by that organization since September 1, 1913, and that nearly all of these organizations have been formed through the efforts of the volunteer organizers of the American Federation of Labor.

DEMAND UNIFORM PRICES.

New York, Sept. 26.—The cloak makers in this city have ordered forwarded to the Chicago office of Manufacturers' association their demands for changed conditions. The union is demanding the formation of a price committee to determine the prices to be paid for the making of various garments, and insisting that the committee shall consist of an equal number of experts from the association and from the union. The reason for this move is that the union desires to establish a scientific method of determining the prices to be manufactured of garments in the entire industry. The present method which permits each shop, to bargain individually, to establish prices has proven unsatisfactory. Another change desired by the organization is the making of the manufacturers responsible for their contractors and subcontractors.

SHOWING SPLENDID PROGRESS.

Hamilton, Ohio, Sept. 26.—Organizer Charles E. Vaughan reports to Washington headquarters that the organized labor movement in Hamilton and vicinity is making splendid progress; that during the past few months he has been successful in increasing the membership of many of the local organizations. Particularly gratifying is the fact that the boilermakers have been reorganized with a charter membership of over 200. Prospects are exceedingly bright for the future.

WANT CASE REOPENED

Pittsburgh, Sept. 26.—Declaring that the European war has caused a material advance on the price of foodstuffs, the employes of the Pittsburgh Railways Company have filed a petition for supplemental hearing in the arbitration proceedings brought to adjust disputes as to pay and other matters between the company and its men. The petition has been forwarded to the arbitrators pending which are out of the city at the present time.

DECREASED IMMIGRATION.

Washington, Sept. 26.—The latest immigration figures given out by the Department of Labor show that the number of aliens arriving at all ports in the United States on Thursday, September 17, was 1,002, while on the same date, one year ago, the number reached 3,466.

WANTS INVESTIGATION.

Washington, Sept. 26.—Senator Norris has introduced a resolution in the United States Senate empowering the Committee on Privileges and Elections of the Senate to make an investigation for the purpose of ascertaining the expenditures of money made by candidates and other persons, committees, organizations, corporations, and associations in the nomination of candidates for the United States Senate at the primary elections recently held in the States of Pennsylvania and Illinois. The resolution gives the committee sufficient latitude to inquire minutely into all methods employed by the candidates and others during primary campaigns in those two states. Upon the introduction of this resolution it was stated upon the floor of the Senate that it was directed particularly to the campaigns of Senator Penrose, of Pennsylvania, and Roger Sullivan, of Illinois, the former a Republican and the latter a democrat. It is alleged that large sums of money were used in the primary campaigns, and it is desired that an investigation be had, in the hope that the actual facts be brought to light, and, if improper use of money is proven, this will form the basis for general legislation to the candidacy of the men involved.

PRISON CONTRACTOR GIVES UP.

Washington, D. C., Sept. 26.—Information comes from Missouri that a prominent clothing company, having under contract 1,000 men in the Missouri Penitentiary at Jefferson City, has notified the warden that the contract will be terminated in the near future. It is stated that the expiration of this contract means a monthly loss to the State of $20,000. The reason assigned for the abrogation by the Warden has failed to cooperate with the clothing company, and that conditions have been so unsatisfactory that it is impossible for the company to make money." The general trend of legislation in the State of Missouri appears to be militating against the leasing of convicts, and no doubt this present situation will have a large bearing on the next state legislature in adopting the "state use" system in order that the State of Missouri be in place as one of the progressive states so far as the penal system is concerned.

COMPULSORY SCHOOLING.

Washington, D. C., Sept. 26.—As a result of the bill passed by the Massachusetts Legislature in 1913, continuation schooling in Boston is made compulsory this month, when all pupils between the ages of 14 and 16 who obtained their employment certificates since last January will be compelled to attend a designated continuation school. It is expected that between five and six thousand workers will be affected by this order. These pupils will receive four hours per week, the hours to be arranged to meet the convenience of the employes as far as practicable. A gratifying feature brought out in the preliminary arrangements is the enforcement of this law was the fact that employers, as a general rule, were found to be favorable to the system, and declared that the employes, where they were compelled to lose the four hours from work, would not be compelled to suffer a reduction on that account.

TOUR ANTHRACITE FIELDS.

Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 26.—International President John P. White and Secretary William Green of the United Mine Workers, expect to make a tour of the anthracite fields this month. They plan to visit Panther Creek Valley and are also to remain in Scranton for several days addressing mass meetings in that city and vicinity. Extensive plans for the observance of "John Mitchell Day" have been discussed at the District Executive Board meeting to be held at Union headquarters in Scranton, Pa., shortly.

IRON MOLDERS' DISPLAY.

Louisville, Ky., Sept. 26.—The Iron Molders' Union has an exhibit at the state fair now in progress here a splendid display of their own handiwork. The molders are showing an assortment of union made stoves which for workmanship could not be excelled. The exhibit was prepared by a committee appointed by the Molders' Union, and is for the purpose of demonstrating to those who have an opportunity to view the display that the union molders take a deep interest in the development of the art of molding, considered as an artistic and workmanlike standpoint.

CLAYTON BILL.

Washington, Sept. 26.—It was expected that the report of the Senate and House conferees on the Clayton bill would be made to the House of Representatives September 22, but owing to the inability of the conferees to agree upon certain provisions of the bill a full agreement has not yet been reached. So far as can be learned the Senate amendments to the Labor section of the bill remain intact, having been reported that no disagreement between the Senate and House conferees on these particular sections have developed, the House conferees accepting the changes made by the Senate.

MECHANICS' LIEN.

Washington, Sept. 26.—The Supreme Court of Oregon held, in the case of Crane vs. Bank of Commerce, that where the effect of a mechanics' lien law was to give each claimant a direct independent lien, a stipulation in the contract between the owner of a building and the principal contractor that a subcontractor's lien should be filed did not preclude laborers, material men, or subcontractors from filing liens, and they had expressly or impliedly assented thereto. 50 L. R. A. (N. S.) 132.

SERIES OF CONFERENCES.

Washington, D. C., Sept. 26.—President Gompers left this city September 17 for the purpose of holding conferences in Cleveland and Chicago. After the Chicago conference he proceeded to Indianapolis where he addressed the Carpenters' annual convention on Wednesday, September 23.

CARPENTERS' CONVENTION.

Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 26.—The United Brotherhood of Carpenters opened their annual convention on September 16, the proceedings of which it will be continued until Saturday, September 26. Reports of the officers show a gratifying increase in membership and effectiveness during the past year.

POSTAL BANKS DEPOSITS.

Washington, Sept. 26.—Deposits amounting to $46,000,000 were in 4,000 Postal Savings Banks in the country August 31, according to preliminary examination of reports. The deposits showed an increase for August was the largest since the system was inaugurated, amounting to $1,200,000.

UNION MAN FOR CONGRESS

Chicago, Ill., Sept. 26.—Oscar F. Nelson, former President of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks, now a State Factory Inspector, has been nominated by the democrats of the Ninth District for Congress. He will be opposed in the coming campaign by Fred Britten, the present republican incumbent, and Laverne Noyes, Progressive. Representative Britten was elected to the Sixty-third Congress by a plurality of 1,400 votes over his democratic opponent. This indicates Nelson has a splendid chance to secure election to Congress. During the time that Mr. Nelson was President of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks, a position which he resigned about a year ago to accept an inspectorship on the State Factories Commission, he was active in behalf of the clerks, and materially assisted the American Federation of Labor in its efforts to secure the repeal of the "gag" law, which forbade the civil service employes in the Post Office Department from joining labor organizations. He will receive the full support of the labor organizations in the Ninth District.

MUFF BED WORKERS WIN.

New York, Sept. 26.—Organizer Hugh Frayne, reporting to Washington headquarters, states that the general strike in the muff bed industry has been entirely successful. The strike was called on September 9, and a settlement took place on September 14. Signed agreements were obtained from the employers, representing a very large percentage of the industry. The conditions gained as a result of the strike were a reduction from fifty-four to forty-nine hours per week, Saturday half-holiday the year around, ten legal holidays with pay, wage increases ranging from $1.00 to $3.00 per week, time and a half for overtime, a union shop agreement, and provisions made for a preferential union label, board, and sanitary regulations. The success of this strike is largely due to the splendid manner in which the affairs of the organization were conducted during the progress of the contest, and establishes for the workers in this industry conditions which are satisfactory.

DEATH OF A. H. GILL.

Washington, D. C., Sept. 26.—A. H. Gill, who was a fraternal delegate to the American Federation of Labor from the British Trades Union Congress in 1909, died August 27. Mr. Gill was a Member of Parliament and had long been a leader in the trade union movement. He had been seventeen years Secretary of the Bolton Operative Cotton Spinners, and was on the Executive Board of the United Textile Factory Workers' Association, and was President of the Bolton Cotton Growing Association. At the memorable election of 1906 Mr. Gill returned as a member from Bolton and held his seat in two subsequent fights.

SECURE NEW AGREEMENT.

St. Louis, Sept. 26.—Thirty-four coal companies have signed agreements with the coal drivers' union, providing for the union shop, shorter hours and a schedule of wages that averages from $2 to $3 per week more than the wages heretofore paid. This agreement runs until March 31, 1916, and includes many of the large concerns in the city. The improvement in conditions is marked, and should any grievance arise during the life of the agreement a board of arbitration and adjustment is provided for the purpose of reaching a mutually satisfactory solution of the difficulty.

COMMISSION AT WORK.

Indianapolis, Sept. 26.—The Commission which was appointed by Governor Ralston under the provisions of the laws of 1913, to investigate the subject of hours and conditions of labor of women in Indiana, held hearings on September 24 and 25 in this city. Other hearings have been held in Evansville and Fort Wayne prior to the hearings in this city. The report of the Commission will be submitted to the Governor and recommendations for remedial legislation. One of the prominent Commissioners is H. J. Conway, Secretary-Treasurer of the Retail Clerks' International Protective Association.

REJECT DEMANDS.

Seattle, Wash., Sept. 26.—United Mine Workers of the Washington District have been in session in this city, at which was made as a result of conven-tion action. The miners have been in conference with the operators for a considerable period for the purpose of negotiating a new wage agreement. Practically all of the demands of the Miners have been rejected. The conference has adjourned for sometime and the miners will vote whether a strike will be called is now up to the membership. A referendum vote is to be at once submitted to the miners.

STEAM FITTERS WIN.

Washington, Sept. 26.—An agreement has been signed between the Steam Fitters and Helpers, who have been on strike in this city with their employers, and the latter have granted the men all that they asked for. The agreement entered into calls for an increase in wages of 20 cents per day, which will become effective at once. Under the new agreement the wage scale of the Steam Fitters is $4.80 per day.

DUNCAN'S SON DEAD.

Washington, Sept. 26.—The only son of James Duncan, first vice president of the American Federation of Labor and the late Mrs. Duncan, died on the morning of September 26. He was accessed had been confined to a medical college and was entering the professional field with bright prospects for a successful career. All those who know "Jim" Duncan will go out to him in full measure.

AGREE TO AMALGAMATE.

Chicago, Sept. 26.—Through the efforts of President Gompers the rival steam shovelmen's organizations have come to an agreement whereby they will amalgamate on a basis of an equal membership. Continuous efforts to bring about this amalgamation have been in progress for over three years.

FULL RECORD OF IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION IN CONGRESS

Washington, D. C., Sept. 26.—For years the American Federation of Labor has persistently advocated the passage of an immigration bill which will restrict immigration. The Congressional Commission, appointed in 1907, made a thorough investigation of the immigration question, and its main recommendation was that a literacy test be incorporated in a bill regulating immigration. It is interesting to note that in the last eighteen years there have been nineteen votes in Congress in favor of the reading test for aliens. Three of these were votes in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and sixteen were votes passing a bill, of which two were votes to pass over a presidential veto. The dates and the votes are as follows:

1896.
Dec. 17—Senate, 52 to 10.

1897.
Feb. 9—Senate, 34 to 31.
Mar. 3—House, 193 to 37 (over President Cleveland's veto).

1898.
Jan. 17—Senate, 45 to 28.

1902.
May 23—House, 86 to 7 (in committee).
May 27—House, No division.

1906.
May 23—Senate, Text added by amendment.
June —Senate, No division.

1912.
April —Senate, Text added by amendment, 37 to 8.
April 19—Senate, No division, but only 2 votes against.
Dec. 18—House, 178 to 52.

1913.
Jan. 17—House, 149 to 70.
Jan. 25—House, 166 to 71.
Jan. 27—House, Agree to conference.
Jan. 27—Senate, Agree to conference.
Feb. 18—Senate, 72 to 18 (over President Taft's veto).
Feb. 19—House, 213 to 114 (on veto).

1914.
Feb. 5—House, 252 to 106.

There have thus been seven record votes in the House, and the average of these votes was 192 to 73; and five record votes in the Senate, the average vote being 52 to 19.